

September 5, 2000

**CONTINUING THE BAN ON THE USE OF HERBICIDE  
2,4-DICHLOROPHENOXYACETIC ACID**

**1. PURPOSE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive reissues and reaffirms the policy of non-use of the selective herbicide 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) on all VHA facility grounds.

**2. BACKGROUND:** A previous VHA Directive (10-95-043, Discontinuing the Use of the Herbicide 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid, dated April 20, 1995) was issued in response to veterans' concerns that there is a perceived relationship between 2,4-D, Dioxin and Agent Orange. In order to respond to those perceptions, it was determined that use of the chemical should be discontinued although it is currently registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a pesticide and is widely used as a selective herbicide.

**3. POLICY:** It is VHA policy to continue the ban of the selective herbicide 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid or products containing this chemical on VHA facility property.

**4. ACTION**

a. Any contracts for grounds or pest management services must fully disclose this policy to the potential provider and the contracting officer's technical representative will monitor the use of all pesticides used to assure compliance.

b. Facility Directors are responsible for disposing (excessing) all existing stocks in an appropriate manner and for ensuring selective herbicide 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid or products containing this chemical are not used on VHA property.

**5. REFERENCES:** None.

**6. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY:** Director, Environmental Programs Service (181C) is responsible for the content of this Directive.

**7. RESCISSION:** This VHA Directive expires September 30, 2005.

S/ Frances Murphy, M.D, for  
Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.  
Acting Under Secretary for Health

**DISTRIBUTION:** CO: E-mailed 9/6/00  
FLD: VISN, MA, DO, OC, OCRO, and 200 - FAX 9/6/00  
EX: Boxes 104, 88, 63, 60, 54, 52, 47, and 44 - FAX 9/6/00

**THIS VHA DIRECTIVE EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**